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TOO POOPED TO POPE

{pages 04, 06}

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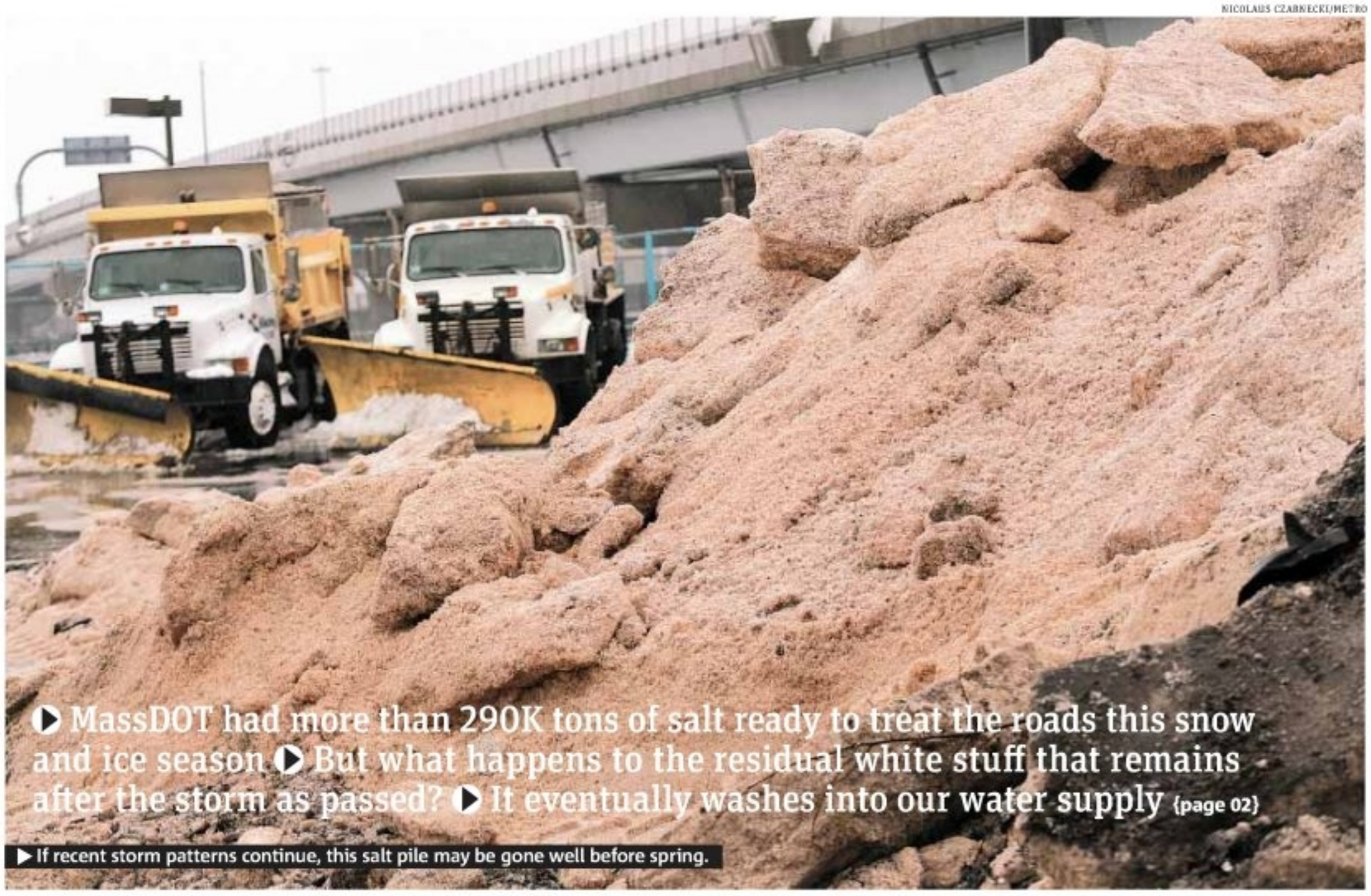
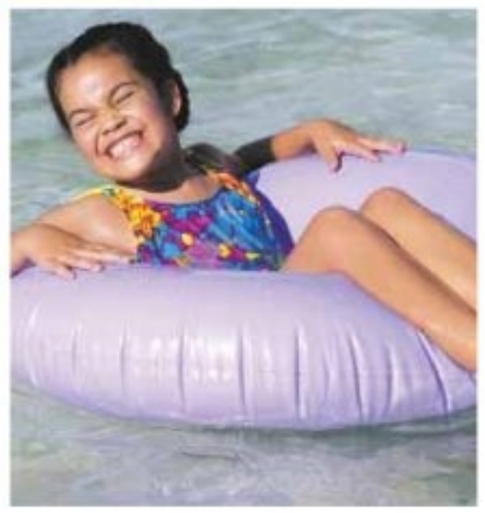
NICOLAUS CZARNECKI/METRO



▶ MassDOT had more than 290K tons of salt ready to treat the roads this snow and ice season ▶ But what happens to the residual white stuff that remains after the storm as passed? ▶ It eventually washes into our water supply {page 02}

▶ If recent storm patterns continue, this salt pile may be gone well before spring.

travel



Virgin Islands for the family

▶ Why this US territory is actually a realistic vacation for you and the kids {page 15}

music

Aesop rock is finally coming

▶ The famed rapper and producer is all healed and ready to hit the Hub {page 12}

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1

In the news

7

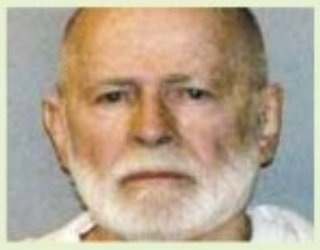
Number of Berklee College of Music alumni who won a Grammy during Sunday's music awards ceremony. Twenty-seven total alumni and faculty had been nominated for awards this year, according to the college. Winners include 1999 graduate Jeff Bhasker, a songwriter for Song of the Year "We Are Young" by fun. METRO

Today's local tweet

"They should have just shut down the city again today and had a big drunken fiesta. #Boston"

@HELLONHEELSGIRL HAS THE RIGHT IDEA

In the news



Bulger immunity hearing this week

BOSTON. Prosecutors and lawyers for alleged mob boss James "Whitey" Bulger will be in court tomorrow to argue before a judge Bulger's claim that he was given immunity by a former U.S. Attorney. Bulger's lawyer has previously argued that it is an issue that should be left for the jury to consider at trial. In a court filing last week, prosecutors challenged Bulger's assertion and said the issue should be heard now before a judge rather than waste time and resources. METRO

Survey: Boston among most literate cities

BOSTON. A recently released survey ranks Boston among the most literate cities in the nation. The Hub ranks No. 7 in the "America's Most Literate Cities, 2012" survey by Central Connecticut State University. The survey ranks the largest cities — populations above 250,000 only — using data available in six areas including number of bookstores, education attainment, Internet resources, library resources, periodical publishing resources and newspaper circulation. However, the news isn't all good. Boston dropped two spots from last year's results. This year, Washington, D.C., ranked as the nation's most literate city. METRO

Salt in the wound: Slick roads

- Concerns that safer roads may lead to unsafe water
- MassDOT uses hundreds of thousands of tons of salt

NICOLAUS CZARNECKI/METRO

▶ Salt covers the street in Boston, and some argue we need to prevent it from entering local waterways.

It's a familiar sight in Boston: chalk white streets and sidewalks that stain your shoes, corrode your car and spark questions about whether you should brace for a brackish glass of tap water later.

City officials said they had 34,000 tons of salt ready for the weekend's winter storm — a drop in the bucket compared to the 290,525-ton stockpile MassDOT has on hand for this season's winter weather.

While frozen-road-fearing motorists benefit from the traction of road salt, some watchdog groups say they are not thrilled with the health and environmental risks involved.

"When it rains, the salt washes off the road, and that absolutely is a concern," said Emily Long, a program assistant at the Conservation Law Foundation.

The concern is that when snow and ice melt, much of it washes into rivers, lakes and groundwater supplies, contributing to elevated sodium and chloride concentrations. It can also deteriorate concrete and steel structures as well as vehicles.

"For most people high sodium concentration in tap water is just a taste issue, but for those on sodium-restricted diets, it's a health issue. Besides public health concerns, salt can also damage the environment," said Karen Wood, the group's communications director.

Better mixture

MassDOT began producing its own salt brine solution this winter, a mixture that is 23.3 percent salt to water. MassDOT spokeswoman Sara Lavoie said, the salty solution is cheaper than dropping salt, and more efficient. "Increased efficiency uses less salt and sand, resulting in cost savings and reducing environmental concerns," she said, adding that sand is no better. "Sand accumulates on roadside edges, catch basins and drainage pipes which can lead to flow restrictions and blockages in the storm water drainage systems."

Quoted

"Once salt enters a water system it can be difficult and expensive to remove, so preventing salt from entering water systems in the first place is key." WOOD

Mmm, salty statistics

290K

At the start of the snow and ice season, MassDOT had 290,525.58 tons of a salt ready to go, more than 34,500 tons of sand and 661,423 liquid gallons of brine.

15

Since November, the state has had 15 salt-worthy storms.

234K

The state has used 234,765 tons salt and sand supply, not counting the weekend's blizzard. Those figures are not yet available.

14K

There are 14,000 known uses for salt.

-6

On roads, salt melts ice at temperatures down to -6 degrees, according to the Salt Institute.

600

The city had more than 600 pieces of equipment on the roads this weekend.

A city spokesman said the priority over the weekend was not to salt the roads, but rather to to clear them of snow.

Michael Naughton
michael.naughton@metro.us

DA: Meth found in man's Valentine's teddy bear

CHELSEA. A Chelsea man was apparently expecting a special kind of candy in his Valentine's Day package.

Authorities said Lawrence Ligocki, 62, accepted delivery of a package that contained heart-shaped boxes of chocolate and a white teddy bear that was stuffed with three bags containing 96 grams of crystal meth. The value of the drug was estimated at $10,000, according to authorities.

SUFFOLK DA

▶ A first-time offender

Ligocki pleaded not guilty to drug trafficking charges in Chelsea District Court last week, the Suffolk district attorney's office said yesterday.

Postal employees notified police on Feb. 5 about a suspicious express package addressed to Ligocki. Police responded with a drug-sniffing dog who alerted handlers to the presence of drugs. Police were able to obtain a search warrant and local, state and federal authorities made a controlled delivery to Ligocki who signed for the package.

When police searched his home they also found meth inside a glass jar, authorities said.

Prosecutors asked for $100,000 bail, but a judge ordered Ligocki held on $150 bail. He is due back in court next month. METRO

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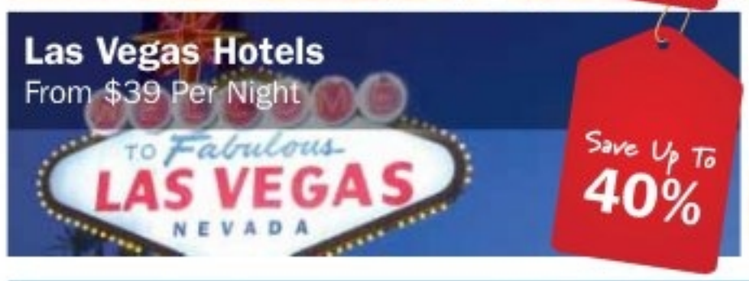

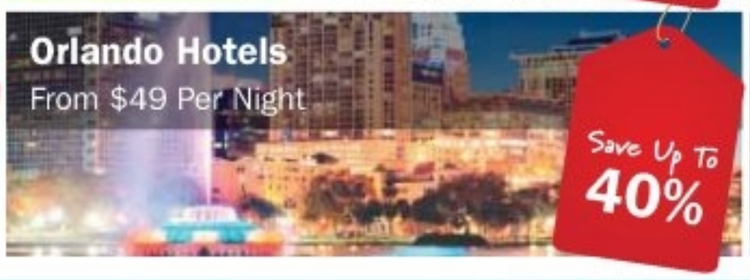

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"No Deposit" offer is only valid for new individual cruise bookings made by calling 1-800-TAKE-OFF on 2/12/2013. Offer is valid for most sailings departing on or before 12/31/2013; excludes all AmaWaterways, Avalon Waterways, Paul Gauguin, SeaDream, Silversea, Uniworld River, and Viking River sailings. Offer only applies to bookings made at least 110 days prior to departure; maximum $500 value (or maximum $1,500 value when you book qualifying luxury sailings) and not valid on reservations requiring non-refundable deposits and/or final payment at least 110 days in advance of departure. The amount of your initial (deferred) deposit must be paid at least 10 days prior to the date on which your final payment is due; if cancellation followed by rebooking occurs, a rebooking fee of $100.00 plus $24.99 processing fee will be assessed.

News in brief

WHATSYOURPRICE.COM

Boston men bid on Valentine's Day first dates

A report released yesterday by an online dating website shows that Boston men are putting their money where their heart is this Valentine's Day season.

According to Whatsyourprice.com, a site that lets its members bid for a first date, Boston accounted for 2,474 first-date offers during the four-week period before Valentine's Day.

Over the past month, men paid an average of $131.70 for a first date, which is 62 percent higher than the website's annual average of $80.

"Our study revealed that as Valentine's Day neared, both the number of offers and the average first date price steadily increased," said Brandon Wade, the website's CEO. "Offering money for a first date is rather unconventional in the dating world, but it proves that Valentine's Day is as important a holiday for singles as it is for couples." METRO/MR

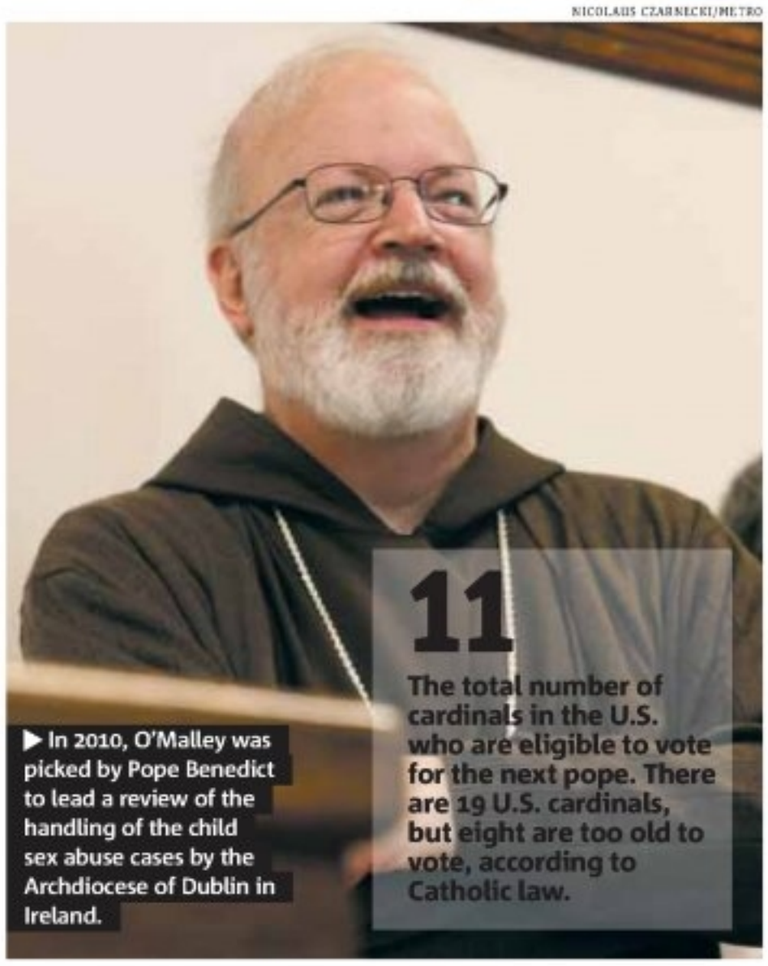
369K

A total of 369,282 first-date offers were made across the nation, according to the site.

Pope Sean? Heaven only knows

Pope Benedict's resignation begins speculation on next pope ◗ O'Malley known outside US, but that's not enough, experts say ◗ However, O'Malley will have say in next leader

NICOLAUS CZARNECKI/METRO



▶ In 2010, O'Malley was picked by Pope Benedict to lead a review of the handling of the child sex abuse cases by the Archdiocese of Dublin in Ireland.

11

The total number of cardinals in the U.S. who are eligible to vote for the next pope. There are 19 U.S. cardinals, but eight are too old to vote, according to Catholic law.

Yes, technically the next pope could be right here in Boston.

But religion and history experts said there is little chance that Cardinal Sean O'Malley, the head of the Archdiocese of Boston, will be the next living leader of the Catholic Church.

Speculation about the next pope began yesterday when Pope Benedict XVI announced his resignation and stunned Catholics across the world.

"All of the American cardinals have wonderful qualities, but there's no chance. I can't see an American being elected pope," said Mathew Schmalz, a professor of religious studies at the College of the Holy Cross.

Both Schmalz and James O'Toole, a history professor at Boston College, said part of the reason why O'Malley, or any American would not be picked, is due to America's status as a worldwide "superpower."

Pope Benedict, 85, cited his age and health as factors for his stepping down.

O'Malley has been appointed to many posts where healing is needed, including in Boston where in 2003 he succeeded Cardinal Bernard Law, who was highly criticized for his handling of the priest abuse crisis.

The conclave of cardinals that is expected to begin selecting a new pope in March will be O'Malley's first. He, and the other American cardinals, will have a strong voice in selecting the next pope, Schmalz said.

"[He] does have the position to shape how the next pope will be selected," he said.

Michael Naughton
michael.naughton@metro.us

O'Malley reacts

O'Malley, in a statement released yesterday, offered no hint about how he would vote, or his own eligibility.

"At this time it is appropriate for the Church and all people of good faith to reflect on Pope Benedict's legacy and achievements," he said in a statement. "During the coming weeks we will continue to pray for Pope Benedict XVI and will call upon the wisdom and guidance of the Holy Spirit as the Church moves forward to choose the next successor to Saint Peter."

O'Malley planned to hold a news conference on the issue today.

Quoted

"The fear would be that for the church in other parts of the world, it would be too much concentration of authority in one place, so I think that would stand in the way."
O'TOOLE

News in brief

MBTA held up well on first full day since blizzard

Snow-shocked commuters returning to work yesterday were able to access all MBTA trains and buses following a weekend-long hiatus.

"Despite a blizzard that crippled the area less than 48 hours ago, America's oldest subway was fully operational this morning, providing safe and reliable service to tens of thousands of customers," MBTA spokesman Joe Pesaturo said yesterday. "While there have been some delays, there have been no significant service interruptions."

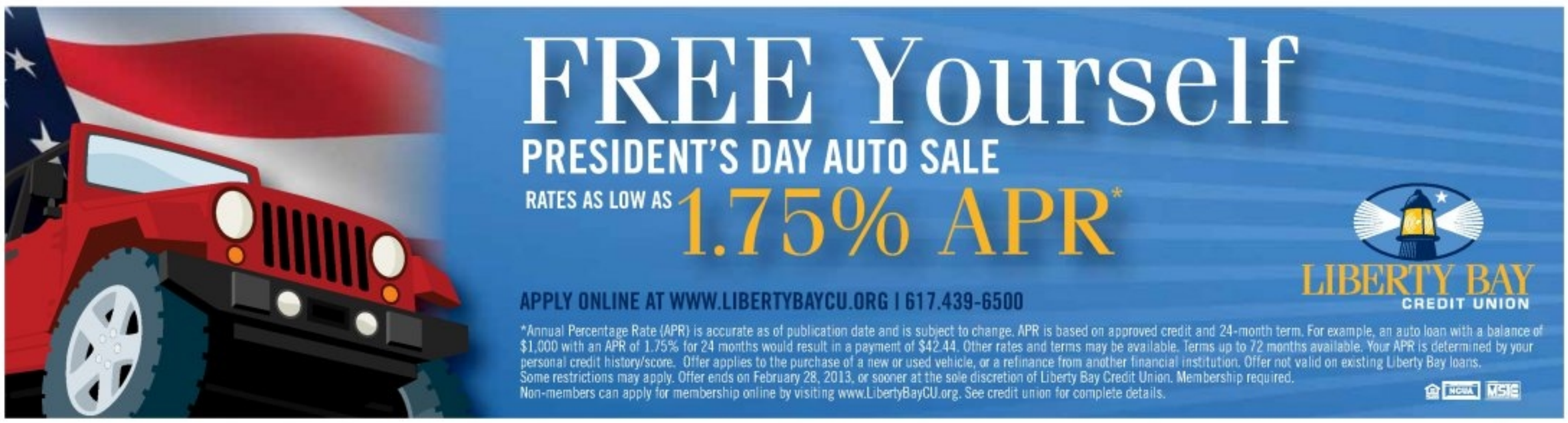
NICOLAUS CZARNECKI/METRO

▶ Plows attached to trolleys helped clear the Green Line tracks.

Yesterday's hold ups were due to nonweather issues, such as signal problems, disabled trains and a suspicious package on a train platform at JFK/UMass Station.

A bomb squad discovered the package was a "military-style ammunition box," and Red Line service resumed by the afternoon.

Forty-two out of 185 MBTA bus routes had to be partially diverted from their regular routes to avoid hazards such as narrow streets, tight corners or steep hills. METRO/MR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Pope's abrupt resignation stuns church

Pope Benedict XVI stunned the Roman Catholic Church, including his closest advisers, yesterday when he announced he would stand down in the first papal abdication in 700 years, saying he no longer has the mental and physical strength to run the church through a period of major crisis.

Church officials tried to relay a climate of calm confidence in the running of a 2,000-year-old institution, but the decision could lead to one of the most uncertain and unstable periods in centuries for a church besieged by scandal and defections.

Several popes in the past, including Benedict's predecessor John Paul, refrained from stepping down even when severely ill, precisely because of the confusion and division that could be caused by having an "ex-pope" and a reigning pope living at the same time.

This could create a particularly difficult problem if the next pope is a progressive who influences such teachings as the ban on female priests and artificial birth control and its insistence on a celibate priesthood.

The Catholic Church has been rocked during Benedict's nearly eight-year papacy by child sexual abuse crises and Muslim anger after the pope compared Islam to violence. Jews were upset over rehabilitation of a Holocaust denier, and there was scandal over the leaking of the pope's private papers by his personal butler. REUTERS

ANDREAS SOLARO/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Pope Benedict XVI cited a physical inability to continue as pontiff as the reason for his abdication.

1.2B

The pope leads more than 1 billion Roman Catholics worldwide.

Speaking the church's language

Pope Benedict announced his historic decision to resign yesterday in an address to cardinals that he delivered in Latin, the ancient tongue whose use he has done much to encourage. REUTERS

Pope Benedict, known for his traditionalist leanings, is the latest in a string of modern-day popes to encourage a revival of Latin, the language that gave rise to Spanish, Portuguese, French, Italian and Romanian.

Last year he launched a new Vatican department to promote the study and use of Latin in the church and beyond. He has also allowed a partial return of the old-style Latin Mass that was phased out four decades ago.

He launched a Latin Twitter account this year, tweeting in the official language of the Catholic Church for the first time in January.

In Latin

"Quapropter bene conscius ponderis huius actus plena libertate declaro me ministerio Episcopi Romae, Successoris Sancti Petri, mihi per manus Cardinalium die 19 aprilis MMV commissum renuntiare."

Which means ...

"Well aware of the seriousness of this act, with full freedom I declare that I renounce the ministry of Bishop of Rome, Successor of Saint Peter, entrusted to me by the Cardinals on 19 April 2005."

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Spring session: **Thursdays, March 7 – April 25, 6:30-7:45pm** (8 classes)

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▶ Cardinal Francis Arinze

Bookies waste no time on pope bets

British and Irish bookmakers ranked Nigeria's Cardinal Francis Arinze, Peter Turkson of Ghana and Canadian Marc Ouellet yesterday as favorites to lead the Roman Catholic Church, setting odds swiftly after Pope Benedict's shock resignation.

William Hill, Britain's largest bookmaker, offered odds of 3/1 against for Arinze, or a probability of 25 percent, while Ouellet and Turkson were priced at 7/2 against, meaning successful punters would win seven pounds for every two staked.

Irish bookmaker Paddy Power had the same three cardinals as leading contenders but placed Ouellet as the favorite ahead of the two Africans. **REUTERS**

Vatileaks could have played role in Benedict's resignation

The "Vatileaks" scandal, which saw Pope Benedict's former butler leak confidential documents, left the pontiff "isolated and may have been a factor in his resignation," a Vatican observer said. Elena Curti, deputy editor of Catholic international weekly The Tablet, answers questions.

Has Pope Benedict's resignation come as a shock?
The timing has been a surprise. While Benedict did indicate in the past that he would step aside if he felt he was unable to continue, the Catholic world has been astonished by this news. As the years went by, the pope did grow weaker both physically and mentally. But the Vatileaks scandal, which saw Benedict's ex-butler Paolo Gabriele steal thousands of Vatican documents, some of which alleged corruption within the church, might have been a factor in his resignation. Knowing that one of his closest aides had betrayed him must have left him very isolated and powerless. The pope must have felt that power was slipping away from him, his power to govern.

▶ Some speculate the pope felt isolated after the "Vatileaks" scandal.

GETTY IMAGES

Do you think Benedict is aware of the cataclysmic effect his resignation has left?
I think his move was quite characteristic of Benedict. He has always been bold in his decision-making. He brought back the old Latin Mass and set up the Ordinariate ... for former Anglicans worldwide.

Who can replace him?
The field is wide open. However, in normal circumstances, the pope dies and the church has more time to reflect, organize the papal conclave and start the debate for a successor. Now there is much less time for that. It will be very difficult to predict who will be the next leader.

The church faces many challenges ahead, following a number of sex abuse scandals and congregation numbers dropping. What direction will it now take?
The church can either work towards a smaller yet purer church or continue its policy of spreading the gospel. I believe the new pope will do both. There is much talk of the falling numbers of churchgoers in the Western world, but elsewhere in the world, particularly in Africa, the numbers are growing very, very rapidly. This could be a shift away from a European-centric church.

Anthony Johnston
METRO WORLD NEWS

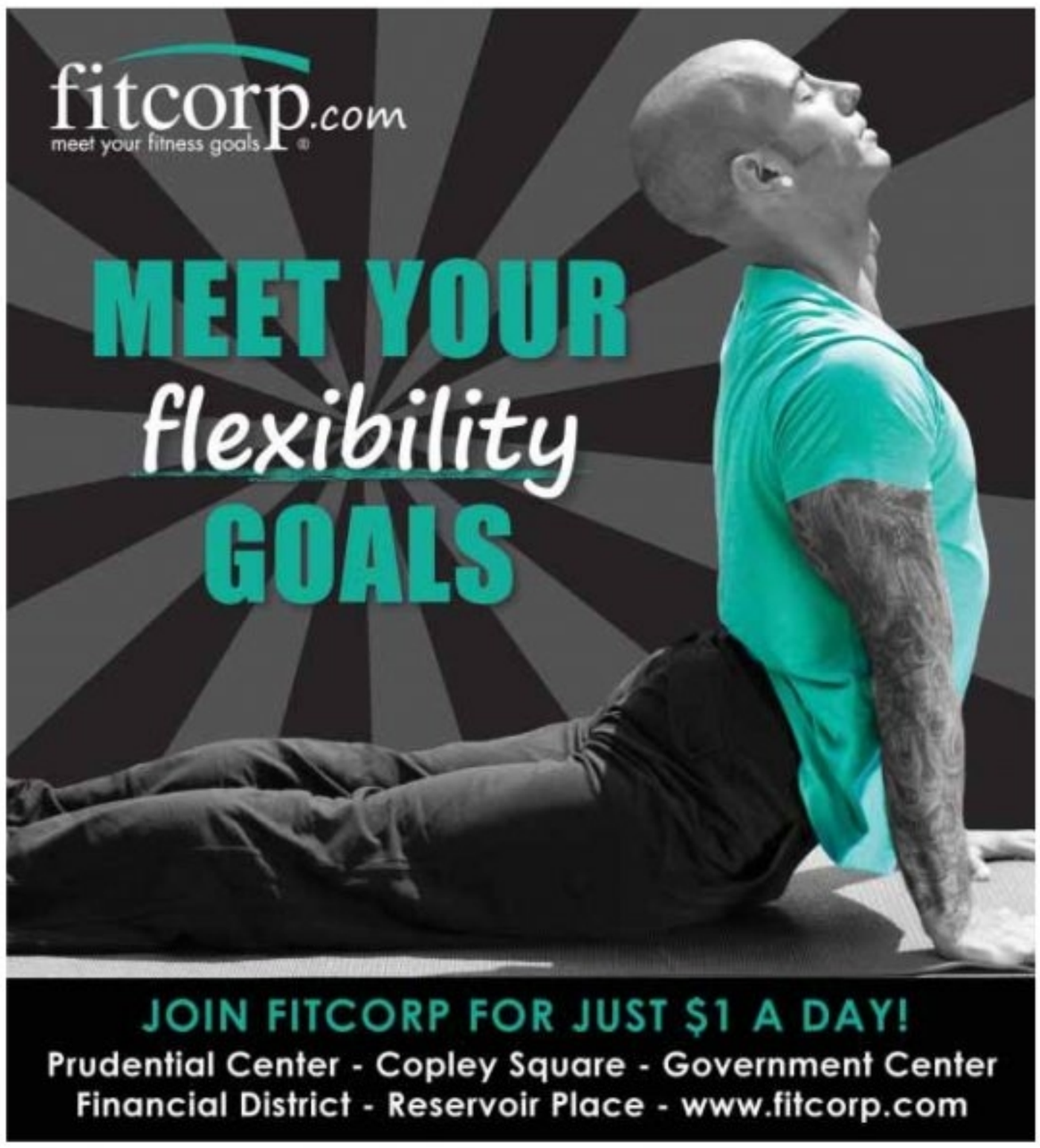
Reactions from Rome

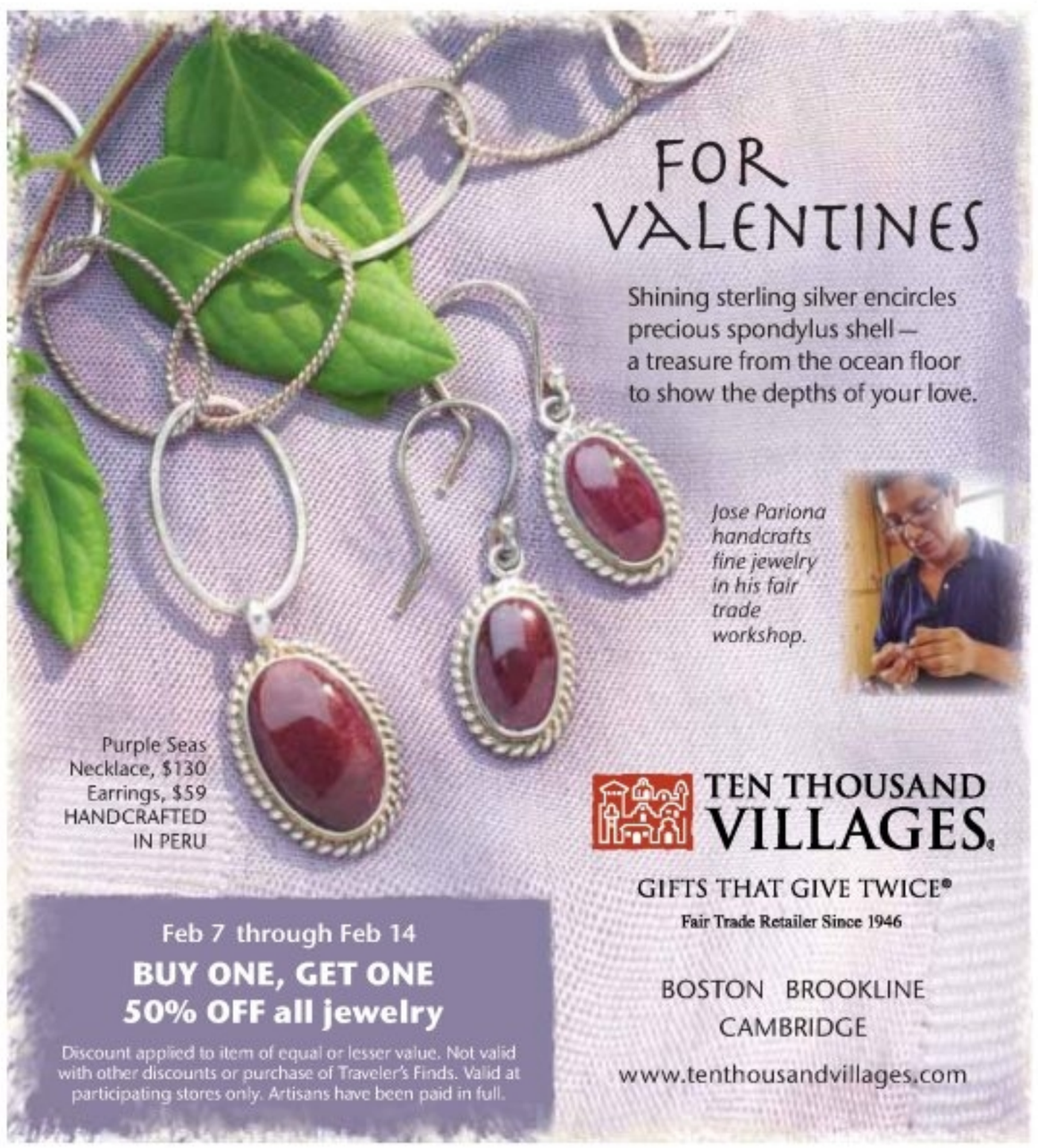
"What Benedict XVI did was an act of ... responsibility. When the forces are not at the end of the labors, you have to have the humility and the courage to stop."

CESARE RIGHI, 74, ENTREPRENEUR AND PROFESSOR, ROME

"I think Benedict was isolated, his entourage did not give adequate support in his many moments of crisis."

AGOSTINO TOTIS, 65, RETIRED BANKER, UDINE

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News in brief

Senate panel votes today on Hagel

WASHINGTON. A Senate panel plans to vote this afternoon on the bitterly contested nomination of Chuck Hagel as President Barack Obama's new secretary of defense, the committee said yesterday.

Sen. Carl Levin, chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, which must approve Hagel's nomination as Pentagon chief before a vote by the full Senate, intends to ask the committee to vote in an open meeting at 2:30 p.m.

Hagel, 66, a Republican and former Nebraska senator, has been the target of harsh criticism from senators in his own party, who raised questions over whether he is sufficiently supportive of Israel and tough on Iran.

Hagel's testimony before the committee during his Jan. 31 confirmation hearing has also been criticized. Even some Democrats have said he appeared unprepared and at times hesitant during aggressive questioning by Republican panel members.

Levin intends to have the committee vote on Hagel's nomination after its members discuss it. **REUTERS**

Hagel

Economy, deficit top voters' issues ahead of SOTU address

Americans are eager to hear President Barack Obama address the U.S. economy and federal deficit in his State of the Union speech tonight, with more than half still convinced the nation is in a recession, a poll released yesterday found.

Gun policy and health care are also top concerns U.S. voters want the president to discuss in his annual speech to the nation, according to the survey by Quinnipiac University.

Obama, who began his second term last month after winning reelection in November, is expected to use tonight's speech to offer his plan for spurring the tepid economy, including proposals for investments in infrastructure, manufacturing, clean energy and education.

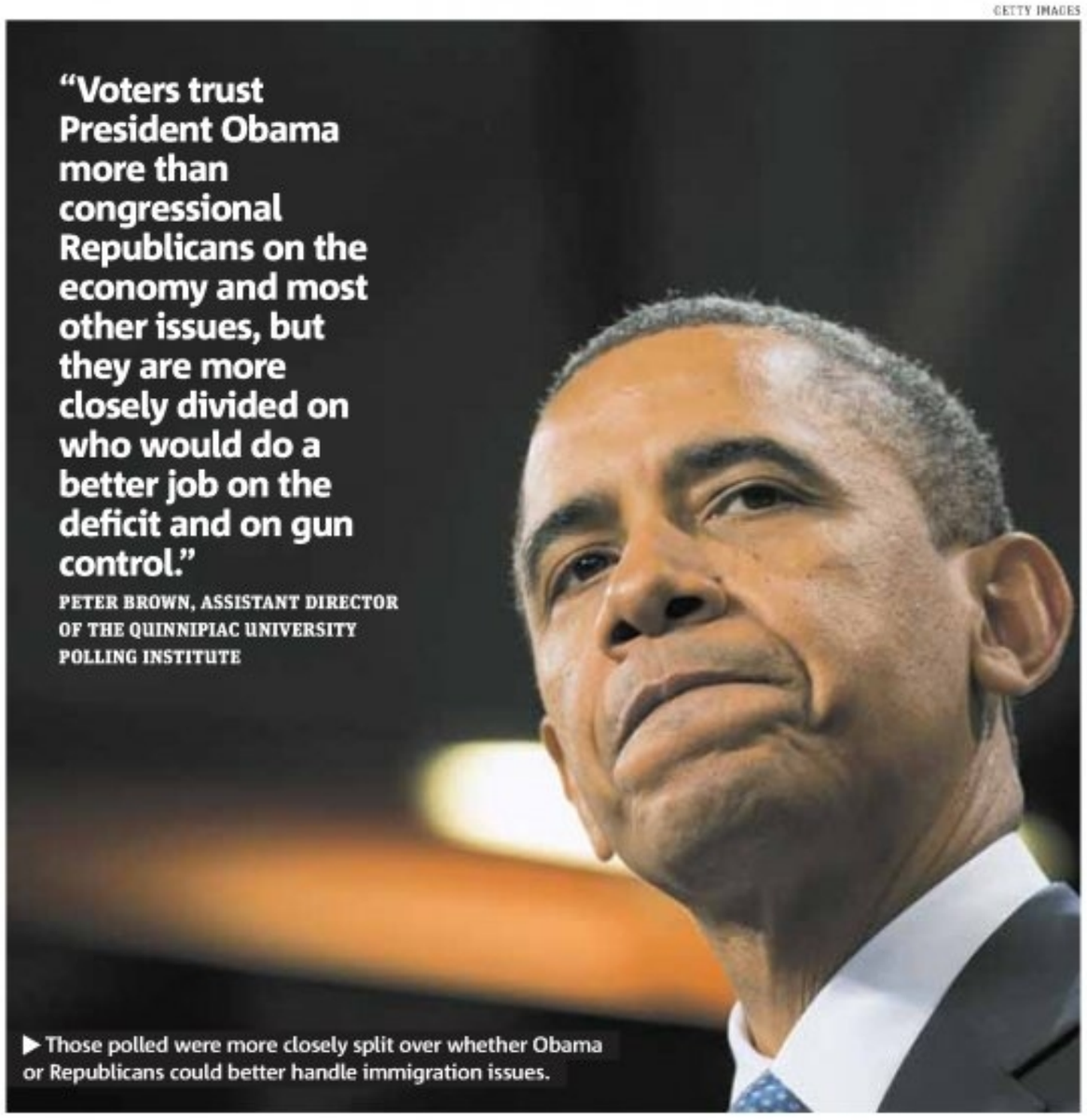
The nationwide poll found 35 percent of U.S. voters said the economy was a top concern, while 20 percent pointed to the federal deficit. It also showed 53 percent said the U.S. economy is still in a recession even though economists have said the downturn that began in late 2007 officially ended in July 2009.

Fifteen percent said the nation's gun policies were a top priority, and 12 percent said they were most concerned about health care, Quinnipiac found.

Its poll of 1,772 registered voters has a margin of error of 2.3 percentage points.

The speech comes as lawmakers grapple with the nation's $16 trillion debt and looming across-the-board government spending cuts slated to take effect March 1. **REUTERS**

GETTY IMAGES


"Voters trust President Obama more than congressional Republicans on the economy and most other issues, but they are more closely divided on who would do a better job on the deficit and on gun control."
PETER BROWN, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF THE QUINNIPIAC UNIVERSITY POLLING INSTITUTE

▶ Those polled were more closely split over whether Obama or Republicans could better handle immigration issues.

The Quinnipiac poll

35% Of U.S. voters said the economy was a top concern

20% Of U.S. voters said the federal deficit was a top concern

53% Said the economy is still in a recession even though it ended in July 2009

Gun violence victims to attend Obama speech

President Barack Obama's fellow Democrats in Congress are bringing victims of gun violence to his State of the Union address tonight, providing faces and voices to the carnage that he wants to curb with new firearms restrictions.

About two dozen victims, including a girl from Newtown, Conn. — the site of the Dec. 14 school massacre that killed 20 children and six adults — will see a divided Congress, uncertain what, if any, new gun laws to pass.

And lawmakers will see victims who agree with Obama that bold action is needed now, including a ban on semi-automatic assault weapons and a limit on high-capacity ammunition clips, like those used in the shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown. **REUTERS**

"They should be worried about doing the right thing, not about getting reelected."
JOHN ARESTA, A GUN VIOLENCE VICTIM WHO WAS INVITED BY DEMOCRATIC REP. CAROLYN MCCARTHY OF N.Y.

myentertainment

THE WORD

Metro's **Dorothy Robinson** shares her take on the world of gossip @dorothyatmetro dorothy.robinson@metro.us

Gossip from the Grammys

Sunday night was so big we're still talking about it Tuesday (sorry, pope).

The drama surrounds **Chris Brown**, of course, because it always does. Brown, who already rubbed most people the wrong way after he refused to give a standing ovation to **Frank Ocean** when he won over Brown for Best Urban Contemporary Album, partied hard at a Hollywood nightclub with **Rihanna**. TMZ was there to snap pictures of the two of them smoking what appears to be a joint (shocking!) and leaving the club around 3 in the morning.

Taylor Swift used her opening slot at the Grammys to offer a not-so-subtle dig at ex-boyfriend **Harry Styles**. Before a rousing chorus of "We are Never Ever Getting Back Together," Swift offered, "So he calls me up and he's like, 'I still love you,'" copping a British accent in an obvious nod to the One Direction member. "And I'm like, 'I'm sorry, I'm busy opening up the Grammys. And we're never getting back together. Like, ever.'" Burn!

Meanwhile, the ratings for the 2013 Grammy Awards were big, but not big enough to top 2012's numbers. Why? No dead pop icon. Last year's record audience was because the awards show was held the day after **Whitney Houston**'s death. But still, this year's music-filled awards show delivered 28.37 million viewers.

Missing from Sunday night's party? **Justin Bieber**, who sat out the Grammys this year. Instead, the pop star decided to do a livestream Web chat with fans during the awards ceremony, but technical difficulties scuttled those plans. "Livestream is over capacity and not letting me in the room. Give me a second," Beiber tweeted, letting his frustration show. "Since nothing is working and I'm superupset, I feel I gotta make it up to you. I should post a new song on Twitter so you can still be excited." Bieber had decided to forgo the awards show after not receiving a single nomination.

Sugar. Ray?

▶ Hawke spoke at the "Before Midnight" press conference at the Berlin International Film Festival.

GETTY IMAGES

Ethan Hawke: Frosted blond ambition

Yes, that is Ethan Hawke and not a member of Sugar Ray. The actor is sporting bleach blond locks for a new role in the off-Broadway play "Clive." Although if the play was called "Chive" he could also be a double for Guy Fieri. METRO

Talking points

Ross speaks out on divorce

Liberty Ross is speaking out for the first time since filing for divorce from **Rupert Sanders** in the wake of his affair last summer with his "Snow White and the Huntsman" star, **Kristen Stewart**. Ross says that she is "keeping her head down" and "listening to her heart," she tells the Associated Press. Meanwhile, sources tell Us Weekly that Sanders' affair was simply the last straw in an already strained marriage. "She wasn't very happy, even before all this happened," a source says.

▶ Ross

Chastain, Lawrence still on good terms

Jessica Chastain doesn't appreciate the rumors out there that she and fellow Oscar nominee **Jennifer Lawrence** are feuding. "I find it very sad that media makes up bogus stories about women fighting in this industry," Chastain writes in a post to her Facebook page. "Why do we support the myth that women are competitive and cannot get along? I think all of the actresses recognized this year have given incredible performances. But more important, they've all shown themselves to be filled with generosity and kindness."

Jolie pops up in LA, which freaks everyone out

Angelina Jolie has kept a fairly low profile lately, sticking around London with her family while she filmed her upcoming "Maleficent" and **Brad Pitt** worked on "World War Z." But the busy mother of six made a surprise appearance in L.A. this weekend, presenting a lifetime achievement award to cinematographer **Dean Semler** at the American Society of Cinematographers Awards, according to Us Weekly. Semler shot Jolie's directorial debut, "In the Land of Blood and Honey."

2

The feed ...

▶ Checking in with some of Hollywood's biggest names to see what they've been up to — in their own words, in 140 characters or fewer.

Today, Ricky Martin is surprised the pope is stepping down, Dana Delaney has her own theory about the pope, Alec Baldwin hasn't been enjoying the snow and Sarah Silverman has simple ambitions.

@ricky_martin
The #Pope resigns? I didn't know that was even possible. Apparently, the last time a pope resigned was the year 1415 #IfYouRintrested

@DanaDelaney
Now that gays can marry, the Pope resigns. #metsomeone

@ABFoundation
I will not let the weather defeat me...

@SarahKSilverman
When I die my only wish will be to have a religion started based on me (like where I'm the star)& also my face on money

Sarah Silverman

myentertainment

The look of love at the Grammys

ALL PHOTOS CHRISTOPHER POLK/GETTY

Guess they're officially back on? Chris Brown and Rihanna hopefully had a better night at this year's Grammys than they did in 2009.

Looks like Ellen DeGeneres had a little something other the Grammys on her mind when she and wife Portia de Rossi found Katy Perry backstage.

▶ Lena Dunham gave a smooch to her boyfriend, fun. guitarist Jack Antonoff, who picked up multiple Grammys Sunday night.

▶ Beyonce flashed that famous megawatt grin while hubby Jay-Z got a laugh.

▶ Who's hair looks prettier, Justin's or Jessica's? PS: Nice wedding ring, JT!

▶ We're so glad Kelly Clarkson is happy with new fiance Brandon Blackstock, though we will miss her angsty breakup anthems a bit.

"You had me at 'Hello'"
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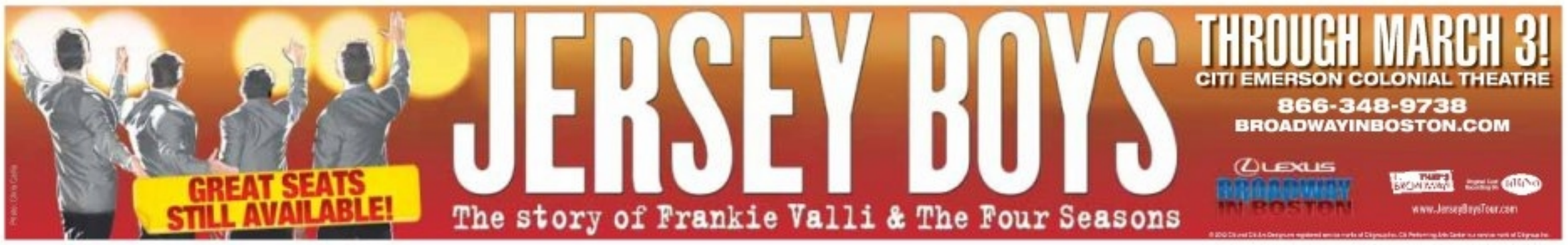


mybooks

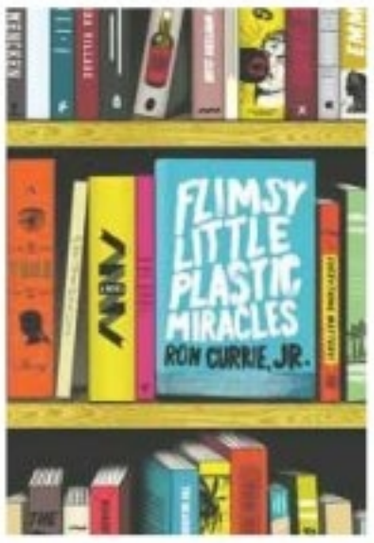
Love that 'almost defies embarrassment'

Ron Currie Jr. on 'Flimsy Little Plastic Miracles,' epic themes and the things we hide from even the people who are closest to us Why the Maine-based author hightails it to the Caribbean for motivation every year

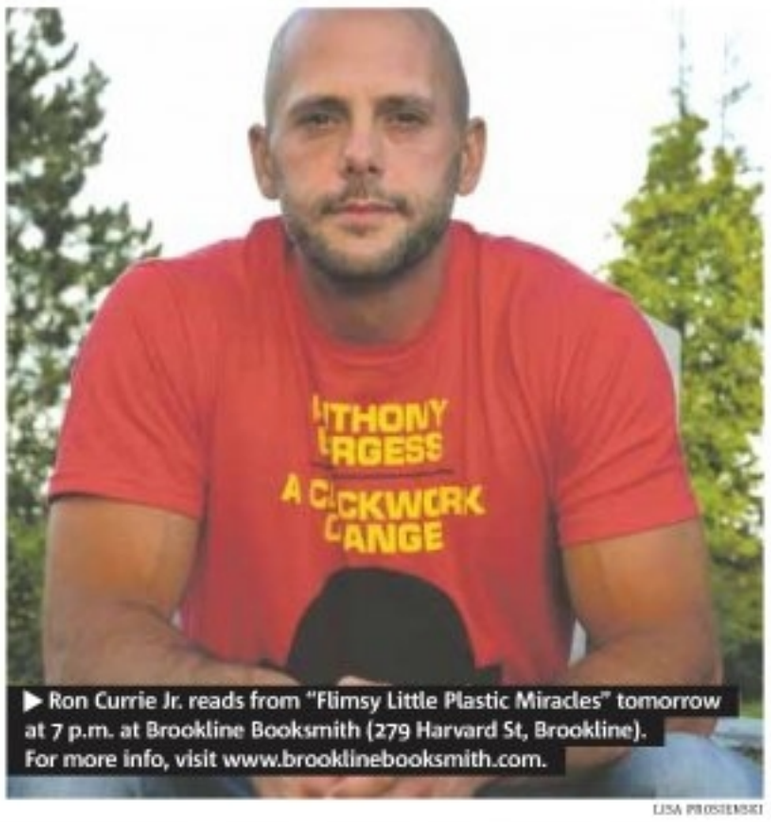
In his previous acclaimed novels, Ron Currie Jr. deals with such topics as God on Earth (2007's "God Is Dead") and armageddon (2009's "Everything Matters!"). It's no surprise that his latest work, "Flimsy Little Plastic Miracles," takes on another epic theme: love, or as Currie puts it, "a certain kind of love."

Here, it is the obsessive, painful, almost mythic love between a reclusive writer (basically Currie with fantastical embellishments) and his high school sweetheart, Emma, who has come back amidst her divorce 20 years later. It's a love that is either too intense — both in a mental way and in a "Fifty Shades" way — or not intense enough to sustain itself, depending on the day.

"This is an honest effort to dissect [love], to filet it, to lay it open and display it in a way



that almost defies embarrassment," says the 37-year-old author from his native Maine. "What I'm really interested in is all the parts of love that we hide from other people, even the people who are closest to us."



▶ Ron Currie Jr. reads from "Flimsy Little Plastic Miracles" tomorrow at 7 p.m. at Brookline Booksmith (279 Harvard St, Brookline). For more info, visit www.brooklinebooksmith.com.

LISA PROSIENSKI

Presented in meticulously worded single-page thoughts that skip through different points in time before connecting together in one Vonnegut-esque mosaic of a story, Currie describes his own ruminations on love as the "literary equivalent of an AA meeting." It's a metaphor that doubly resonates with the day-drinking depression of the novel's protagonist as he languishes in the Caribbean, ruminates on the death of his father and even goes so far as to fake his own death (before watching himself become posthumously famous).

With trademark warmth and subtle humor, Currie makes grandiose themes eminently readable. "I'm guilty of taking on the big topics, almost compulsively. There is very little else that's worth writing about."

Viva Vieques

For the past four winters, Currie has lived in Vieques, an island off of Puerto Rico. Much like the version of himself in "Flimsy Little Plastic Miracles," the novelist goes there to write and to escape the brutal Maine winters.

"It's sort of counterintuitive to think that going to the Caribbean is good for one's work ethic, but for me it is," says Currie of the small getaway where he finds the fortitude needed to beat the telltale doubts that come with writing a great novel. "It doesn't matter if you are Chekhov or Saul Bellow."

Jonathan Donaldson
letters@metro.us

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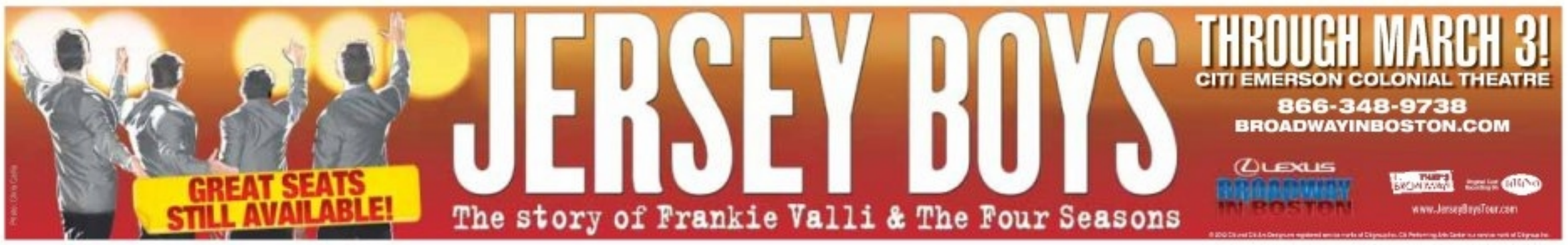

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Aesop's troubles

Fabled rapper on trying to return to the stage, but having a rough start with a hurricane and a broken rib ◗ 'Canceling is a terrible feeling,' he says

First it was Hurricane Sandy, then a broken rib. Arthouse rapper and producer Aesop Rock's return to touring after a considerable hiatus got off to a bumpy start with seven shows canceled (albeit now rescheduled).

"Canceling is a terrible feeling," says the rapper whose real name is Ian Bavitz. "The Sandy situation was like, we were driving, we were getting calls. Everyone from promoters to agents to managers to venues were feeling sketchy; at that time everything on the news was speaking of a biblical event. It was a bad place, bad time and we weren't left with much of a choice. Then this rib thing is just annoying. It's a medical emergency so there's not much I can do, but that doesn't make it feel any better."

The tour is for the broody indie-rapper/producer's first album in five years, "Skelethon," which features ex-Moldy Peaches' Kimya Dawson among its contributors. While the Aesop Rock moniker rested, however, Bavitz was busy with several projects under different names.

"There's never much of a time when my actual workload slows. I like doing music and attempting to be creative in general, so if something comes up and seems interesting, I go for it. Anything I do outside of Aesop Rock is more fuel for the fire when I get back to my solo stuff, which I always inevitably do."

Linda Laban
linda.laban@metro.us

You know him as Aesop Rock, but he also goes by Ian Bavitz.

CHRISSY PIPER

Dealing with stress

"Anyone that works with me closely can tell you that I'm about as neurotic as they come. I have made big efforts to reel it in over the years. I like to think it's because I'm passionate about what I do."

Quoted

"There's never much of a time when my actual workload slows. I like doing music and attempting to be creative in general."
BAVITZ

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TV watch list

State of the Union Address

POLITICS. It's like oratorical "Connect the Dots," but the dots are abstract nouns like "freedom," "liberty" and "opportunity."
9 p.m., ABC, NBC, CBS

'Double Divas'

REALITY. This docu-series centers on a famous Atlanta lingerie boutique. We suspect the concept was born at the end of a bland pitch meeting when some exasperated exec blurted, "people still like boobs, right? Let's run with that."
10 p.m., Lifetime

'Starter Wives Confidential'

REALITY. TLC has a lock on the trashy voyeur demographic. Watch these jilted exes move on after splitting with celebrities. We're especially excited about Liza Morales, former flame of Lamar Odom. Does she have a bone to pick with Khloe Kardashian? If she does reality TV right, she does.
10 p.m., TLC

'United States of Bacon'

REALITY. Every episode features a new road trip with a destination that includes a new spin on America's most prized cured meat. Tour the many lives of bacon with Chef Todd Fisher, and resent him for getting to taste what you can't.
9 p.m., Destination America

NATALIE SHURE

WHO LOVES YOU, PRETTY BABY?
Celebrate Valentine's Day with Jersey Boys!

Birth defects in multiples is on the rise, study shows

Compared to the births of singletons — or just one baby — the risk of birth defects was about 27 percent higher for multiples May be tied to in vitro fertilization methods

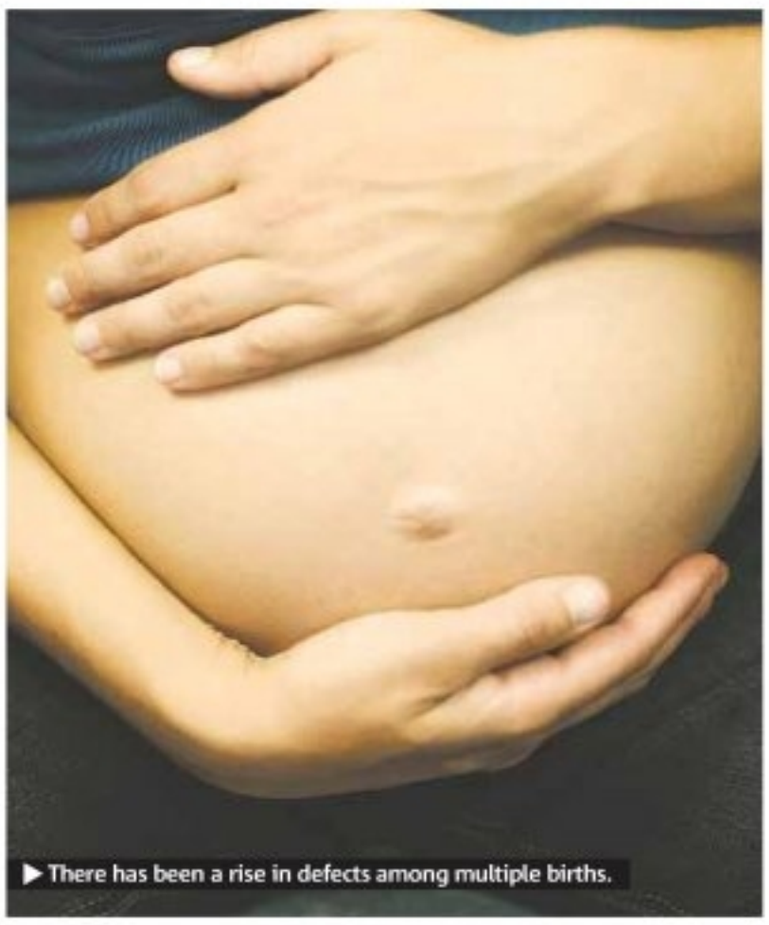
The number of birth defects among multiple births such as twins and triplets increased nearly twofold in a score of European countries over a 24-year period, according to an international study.

Researchers writing in BJOG: An International Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology used data on more than 5.4 million births occurring between 1984 and 2007 to find that congenital defects rose from around six in every 10,000 multiple births to about 11 in every 10,000 multiples.

"The importance of knowing this is twofold," said senior author Helen Dolk, from the Centre for Maternal Fetal and Infant Research at the University of Ulster in Northern Ireland.

"First, to make sure we have appropriate services available for mothers and babies. The second is to understand the relationship," she added.

Dolk said she and her fellow researchers knew multiple births were on the rise and that those babies were at an increased risk for birth defects.


There has been a rise in defects among multiple births.

Quoted

"The fundamental message remains: The risks are low. Most babies are born healthy from multiple births or IVF, but there are a number of reasons why single embryo transfers is a better option than multiple embryo transfer."

HELEN DOLK, FROM THE CENTRE FOR MATERNAL FETAL AND INFANT RESEARCH

For the study, they looked at the trends in births in 14 European nations between 1984 and 2007. Of the 5.4 million births, the number of multiple births increased by about 50 percent over that time. Ultimately, 3 percent of the births were multiple births. Of the 148,359 major birth defects within those births, about 4 percent occurred in babies who were multiples.

Over the 24-year period, though, the number of birth defects among multiples about doubled, with a peal between the years 2000 and 2003 of some 12 birth defects per 10,000 multiple births.

The largest increase was in birth defects not caused by chromosomal abnormalities, such as physical deformations — which increased from about six per 10,000 multiple births between 1985 to 1987 to about 11 per 10,000 multiples at the end of the study. REUTERS

IVF to blame?

Some of the rise may be attributed to the increased use of in vitro fertilization which is known to come with an increased risk of anomalies, the researchers said. They wrote that people going through the IVF process might consider only transferring one embryo . While this might not cut down on the risk of birth defects, it could affect the pregnancy outcome.

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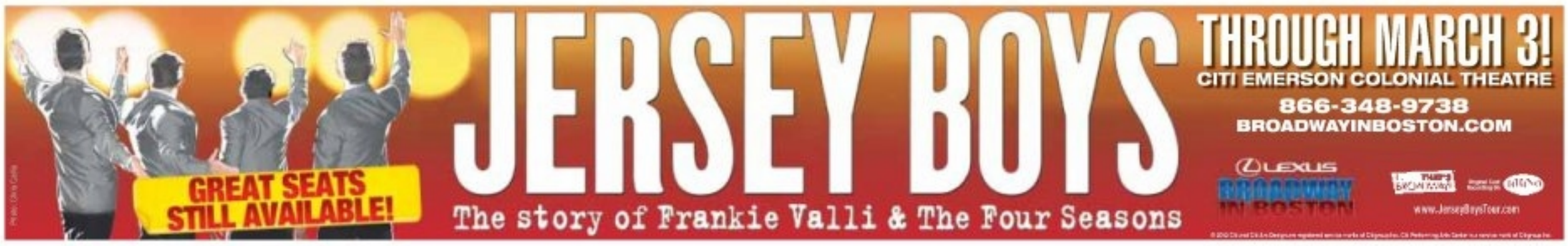


Letters

letters@metro.us

Piles of snow can't bury kindness

As my wife and I prepared to depart for North Carolina, we were in the midst of digging out on Saturday from a 12-inch-plus snowfall when a complete stranger drove up to our driveway and asked if we needed help. Of course I said yes, and without a word he helped us shovel out. There are good individuals willing to help out, and this was yet another example. Thank you, sir.

HERB STARK, VIA E-MAIL

Winter warning: Ensure exhaust pipes are clear

Please, please pass the word: Before you turn the key on in your car when you want to warm it up while you are facing digging it out, CHECK TO SEE IF YOUR EXHAUST PIPE IS FREE OF SNOW. Then turn the car on, go back and see if it is exhausting freely and if not, use a stick or some way to clear the snow out of the pipe. That way you are insuring that the carbon monoxide is not building up inside the auto.

PATRICIA DASKO, VIA E-MAIL

Debt reduction, strong economy are not exclusive

RE: "PUT OUT THE FIRE BEFORE YOU REBUILD YOUR HOUSE" (METRO, FEB. 11) Letter writer Glenn Hayes is saying the same thing the GOP is saying and their intent is to prevent the passing on of debt. Hayes appears to be confused. The GOP strongly supports job creation and opportunity.

Republicans do not want the unemployment rate to be 7.9 percent, which is actually higher when the ones who have given up hope are included.

PETER MOLLE, VIA E-MAIL

US: Rich in guns, poor in answers

I am so tired of reading about more and more shootings, of children, teachers, bus drivers and firefighters — firefighters who risk their lives to save people and who carry no weapons — of movie-goers, Congress people and more.

There have been 1,000 people killed by guns since the horror of Newtown! One thousand human beings dead from guns, a girl who sang at the president's inauguration, people killed in our inner cities every day.

And people think more guns are the answer. More guns will only lead to the morgue. We have millions of guns, but not enough food to eat, or books, or homes, health care or a clean environment.

SHIFRA FREEWOMAN, VIA E-MAIL

Quoted

"The Bill of Rights was drafted by the founding fathers — a group of fallible men — rather than handed down from God. To associate gun ownership with some form of divine mandate is pathetic and, frankly, offensive."

MARY SMITH, VIA E-MAIL; RE: "BILL OF RIGHTS ISN'T A GOVERNMENT GIFT" (METRO, FEB. 11)

E-mail your letters: **letters@metro.us**

Keep them as brief as possible, preferably under 100 words.
Metro reserves the right to edit all letters.
Please include your name and contact information.

Horoscope

♒ Aquarius **Jan. 20-Feb. 19.** Small factors could have more significance than usual in your commercial or financial dealings. All those pennies you save or make will really add up.

♓ Pisces **Feb. 20-March 20.** Even though you might not be aware of the weight that your words carry, your thoughts and suggestions will have a strong, constructive impact on persons with whom you're involved.

♈ Aries **March 21-April 19.** Certain confidential information you become privy to can be used to everyone's advantage, especially yours. It behooves you to keep it to yourself for the time being.

♉ Taurus **April 20-May 20.** Try to associate with friends whose views and opinions parallel yours. Valuable information can be exchanged through frank discussions.

♊ Gemini **May 21-June 20.** You're likely to discover that if confronted by a challenge, you'll be able to work it out much quicker in front of an appreciative audience than you would alone.

♋ Cancer **June 21-July 22.** It's important that you treat any team effort extremely seriously, whether it involves a sport or a business. Your opponents will be playing to win!

♌ Leo **July 23-Aug. 22.** If you've been anxious to get the support of someone about a change that you'd like to make, this is the day to do it. Spell out all the details, even the unattractive ones.

♍ Virgo **Aug. 23-Sept. 22.** This could turn out to be a rather successful day — you'll not only have good ideas, you'll know how to implement them in ways that improve present conditions.

♎ Libra **Sept. 23-Oct. 23.** Small gains have a way of adding up, so don't get discouraged if the initial returns aren't up to your expectations. Consistency will prove to be more important in the long run.

♏ Scorpio **Oct. 24-Nov. 22.** It isn't likely that spontaneous involvements will generate much pleasure for you. You're apt to find far more enjoyment in well-planned activities.

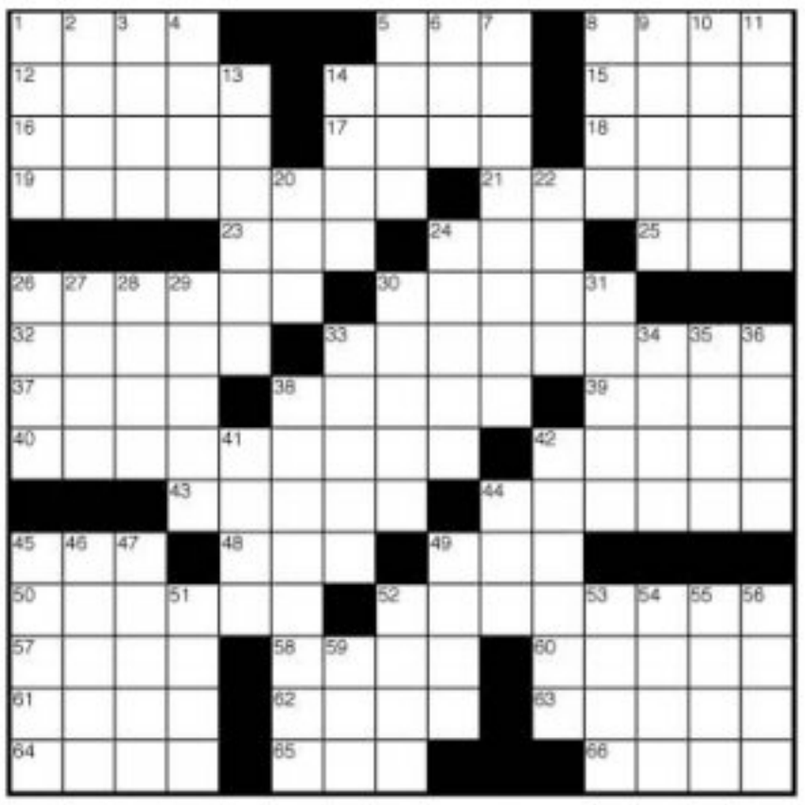
♐ Sagittarius **Nov. 23-Dec. 21.** A great deal of valuable information can be attained by observing how a successful friend handles his or her relationships. The techniques used by your pal can be tailored to fit you.

♑ Capricorn **Dec. 22-Jan. 19.** If you decide to pay a surprise visit to an old friend whom you haven't seen in a long time, you'll be welcomed. Your pal will be glad for the opportunity to catch up.

BERNICE BEDE OSOL

Across
1 Picket-line crosser
5 Monsieur's nose
8 Genealogy abbr.
12 Utter chaos
14 Graceful wrap
15 Foot part
16 Important period
17 Wheels for baby
18 Ibsen heroine
19 Lamented
21 Shores up
23 Giant bird of myth
24 Sigh of content
25 Finish a dress
26 Chic
30 Flowed back
32 Pocket problems
33 Type of boxer
37 Slippery — — eel
38 Huge-antlered deer
39 Mme. Gluck of opera
40 Waves
42 Eavesdrop
43 Shin neighbor
44 Pass by, as time
45 Caviar
48 Draftees
49 Veldt grazer
50 Contemporary
52 Some CPAs
57 Meadow browsers
58 Roman historian
60 Henry — Lodge
61 Solidifies
62 Is very thrifty
63 Mademoiselle's school
64 Toward shelter
65 Survey choice
66 Mr. Sulu's place

Down
1 — Wooley of 1950s pop
2 Promontory
3 Admit openly
4 — Raton, Fla.
5 Ancient ointment
6 Baseball stat
7 Rhodesia, now
8 Ms. Merrill
9 Tennyson's "— Arden"
10 Fallen-rock debris
11 Gorge
13 Peeps
14 Blueprint, briefly
20 Myrna of old movies
22 Syngman — of Korea
24 Yawning gulf
26 "Pygmalion" author
27 Grab a cookie
28 Jai —
29 Five, in combos
30 Wed in haste
31 Ross or Rigg
33 Young horses
34 Mashed potato serving
35 RN employers
36 Masking —
38 Highest point in North America
41 Amtrak driver
42 Floodgate
44 Call it quits
45 Rolex rival
46 I or U
47 "Skyfall" singer
49 People, informally
51 To be, to Brutus
52 Wide sts.
53 RPM meter
54 Woodwind
55 Cinnamon goody
56 Flower part
59 Turner of music



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SUDOKU **LEVEL: EASY**

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			2	7			9	
	6						3	2

SUDOKU **LEVEL: HARD**

Solution to yesterday's crossword

H	O	Y	A	S		M	E	R	V		L	I	S	A
E	L	E	N	A		E	P	E	E		A	N	A	S
R	I	G	E	L		L	I	A	R		M	U	O	N
D	O	G	W	O	O	D	S		S	U	P	I	N	E
				M	U	S	T		U	L	S	T	E	R
L	A	S	S	E	N		L	E	S	T				
O	A	T	H		C	B	E	R		R	E	S	T	S
A	R	M	O	R	E	R		G	R	A	N	N	I	E
M	E	T	O	O		A	L	O	E		Y	U	M	A
				A	R	G	O		I	S	A	B	E	L
W	E	I	R	D	O		U	R	G	E				
R	A	R	E	S	T		V	A	N	Q	U	I	S	H
E	G	A	N		A	B	E	S		U	N	T	I	E
C	E	N	T		T	A	R	P		E	D	I	N	A
K	R	I	S		E	A	S	Y		L	O	N	E	R

How to play Sudoku: Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

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destinations

USVI: ADVENTURE FOR YOUR ENTIRE FAMILY

BOB ROBINSON

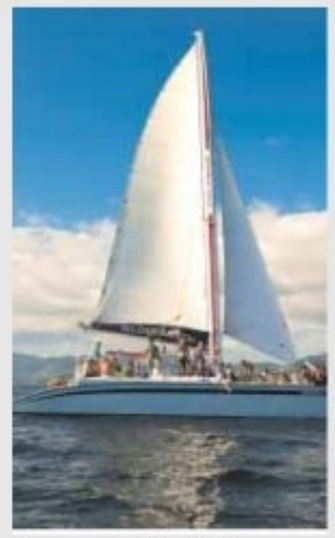
Must-do No. 1

Coral World Ocean Park

This informative little park is just the right size for your children to learn about marine life and other animals. A big hit is the screened-in aviary, where tropical birds perch on your hand to sip out of a cup of nectar. For a memorable experience, book the Sea Lion Encounter, where you can swim with (and kiss!) Romulo, Remo, Omar or Franco.

▶ To help plan your family getaway, go to www.visitusvi.com.

Must-do No. 2



Sunset sail with Heavenly Days

Hop aboard the 53-foot catamaran, known as Heavenly Days, for the popular sunset cruise. Kids will love watching sea planes land and take off, and parents will appreciate the nonstop drinks, poured by the friendly and knowledgeable crew. The three-hour tour takes you through beautiful Charlotte Amalie Harbor, with views of historical Hassel Island and Water Island.

Don't forget

The VI Ecotour

The patient guides from the Virgin Islands Ecotours give a little nature lesson while you kayak through St. Thomas' protected inner lagoon marine preserve. The kayaking is topped off with a scenic snorkel around the lagoon.

The relative ease of getting to St. Thomas — hello, direct flights! — and the destination's exotic feel make it appealing for those families looking for something unconventional

Traveling with children is hard. The luggage! The airport! The cost! It routinely tests even the calmest of parents. But despite the difficulty, loading up the kids for a little break is a rite of family bonding. The family wish list: Somewhere fun for the kids, but relaxing enough for their stressed parents; somewhere unconventional, but where you don't need to go through tons of bureaucratic red tape to get around.

Check out the United States Virgin Islands, which proclaim they are "America's Caribbean." Comprising four islands, the USVI are a U.S. territory, meaning you can partake in wonders

that scream international getaway (Caribbean seas, mountainous views, laid-back locals) while forgoing the hassles of visiting a different country (passports, currency exchange, your obsolete hair dryer plug). Their most popular island, St. Thomas, is great for families.

Dorothy Robinson
dorothy.robinson@metro.us

What to expect

St. Thomas is more than a port of call for various cruise ships, although that's certainly one of the island's main attractions: It's normal to see six or more ships docked in a day. Your family will enjoy watching the big boats come and go from the scenic Charlotte Amalie Harbor. The cruise traffic brings the good and the bad (the influx of people can tie up traffic and sidewalks) but the good news is that the island has built a booming tourist infrastructure that can help when trying to explore the island with kids in tow. And the duty-free shopping in Charlotte Amalie is especially attractive to the some 20,000 people who swarm the island daily in high season.

Getting around

In St. Thomas you drive on the lefthand side of the road — in an American car. And the roads are daring; there are steep switchbacks and sharp turns. Kids will eat this up; white-knuckled parents, not so much. But a car is necessary to get around and to visit the different beaches. Do some research to decide which is best. Want to snorkel? Try **Coki Point Beach**. Sunbathe? **Magens Bay** has white sand and calm waters. **Lindbergh Beach**, **Sapphire Beach** and **Magens Bay** are good for kids.

Must-do No. 3

A day visit to St. John

Locals say that St. John is more "laid-back" than St. Thomas, which seems impossible, but it's true: The island is mainly comprised of a national park, lending it a more peaceful vibe. Learn more about the area's Danish history at the Annaberg Sugar Plantation Ruins, or take a family hike on some of the 22 trails of the Virgin Islands National Park. Public ferries are available, but many St. Thomas hotels offer private boat trips.

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The world's most romantic cities

Take your love on the trip of a lifetime

1 Paris
Sure it's cliché, but not without good reason. Walking along the Seine, exploring artsy Montmartre, shopping the Champs Elysees—there's something for everyone. When the Eiffel Tower ignites after dark, even the most jaded of couples will find it hard not to sneak in some handholding after a few glasses of red wine.
goaheadtours.com/pwe

2 Florence
The birthplace of the Renaissance and opera, this Italian favorite is a great getaway for lovers of art and lovers of love. Get your fill of cappuccinos and palazzos, or opt for easy daytrips to scope out Pisa's iconicly off-kilter skyline, the rolling hills of the Tuscan countryside or the charming villages of Siena and San Gimignano.
goaheadtours.com/vfs

3 Prague
The Czech capital offers gorgeously preserved castles ripped from fairytale pages and a monumental Old Town Square that features an astronomical clock that's been ticking for over 600 years. Those with more modern tastes will love a swing by the Gehry-designed Dancing House, a whimsical mix of architectural styles that mimics a twirling couple.
goaheadtours.com/vib

4 Buenos Aires
The Argentine capital melds European elegance with Latin soul into a vibrant venue for modern romance. The al fresco daytime lifestyle (think outdoor cafes and all-day promenades along tree-lined boulevards) gives way to a steamy nightlife perfect for you and someone special—it takes two to tango, after all.
goaheadtours.com/bra

5 Kyoto
Japan's spiritual capital, Kyoto is home to endless Zen gardens, fragrant cherry trees, the glittering Golden Pavilion, and the 17th-century Nijo Castle, which features floors that sing like a nightingale. Sip sake with your sweetie over a steaming shabu-shabu dinner or take in some traditional entertainment, such as the kyogen comedic theater or a geisha dance.
goaheadtours.com/jpn

PARIS BY THE NUMBERS

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OTHER CONSIDERATIONS
It's technically illegal to kiss on French railways.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION
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60,600
The area of the Louvre (in square meters)

13.40€
The price of one lift ticket to the top of the Eiffel Tower

SUSTAINABILITY
4
the number of neighborhoods that the mayor's office has projected to go "car-free" this year

900
The number of green boxes used by *bouquinistes* to sell books along the Seine

visit **goaheadtours.com/blog** for more infographics and travel stories

4 reasons to opt for tour travel

1 Legwork=done
The DIY travel bubble may have finally burst. With the web so saturated with travel sites, even experienced travelers are forgoing the hours of online research and seeking out reputable travel professionals to help them create the perfect itinerary.

2 A local expert
Likewise, included sightseeing at your destination takes the guesswork out of trying to do it all. A trusted local guide can tell you what's worth your time, and also draw on local knowledge and history to contextualize each experience.

3 Everything's included...
Building airfare and accommodations into the tour price can keep overall costs down. Other perks can include meals, sightseeing, admission to select sights and even line-jumping privileges at major attractions.

4 ...even free time
You're independent, we get it. Every traveler gets off the plane with their own goals for the trip—and the benefit of a tour is that you can ask your guide for off-time recommendations for sightseeing, restaurants and local hot spots.

▼ our view is your view

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destinations

San Juan: Your 'something blue'

Is a destination wedding in your future? Puerto Rico's San Juan is a warm, nuptial-friendly location Three properties that will have you saying 'I do' in tropical style

You've got plenty of time to stress about flowers, colors and dresses — first and foremost, let's get the location of your wedding nailed down. If you're torn between choosing a local venue to accommodate your guests and jetting off to someplace warmer and more exotic for your upcoming nuptials, it's time to take a closer look at the clear, blue skies and waters of San Juan, Puerto Rico.

With year-round, summer-like weather, quick and affordable access from the East Coast and no need for a passport, this historic city could be the answer to your destination dreams. The island boasts sparkling beaches, tropical rainforests and vibrant nightlife — enough to get any bridesmaid or groomsman committed to making the trip. And with flights from $200, your guests will thank you for picking a venue that's easy on the budget and perfect for extending their long weekend.

Bonus: Destination weddings are a great excuse for keeping the guest list tight to include only those guests you really want to invite and not, for example, the work friends of certain relatives. (We're looking at you, Mom and Dad).

Cassandra Garrison
cassandra.garrison@metro.us

Something new

LA CONCHA

▶ Where else can you host a reception beneath a giant seashell?

La Concha

The ultimate in luxury, this chic hotel feels more like a Hollywood hangout — perfect for the bride who spares no details and wants to wow her guests.

The AAA Four diamond property sits on the beach but also boasts more than four pools and a stunning banquet room for up to 800 of your closest friends and family members.

Easy indoor/outdoor access lets you plan without stressing over the weather. After your wedding party has danced the night away, they can retire upstairs to the property's well-appointed guest rooms while the newlyweds get cozy in a luxurious suite.

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9-Day Caribbean $629* Fr. pp — Ocean View $729* Fr. | Balcony $1009* Fr.

Celebrity Cruises
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7-Day Caribbean $494* Fr. pp — Ocean View $594* Fr. | Balcony $739* Fr.
7-Day Bermuda $709* Fr. pp — Ocean View $839* Fr. | Balcony $1154* Fr.
11-Day Hawaii $939* Fr. pp — Ocean View $1134* Fr. | Balcony $1574* Fr.

Royal Caribbean International
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7-Day Bermuda $529* Fr. pp — Ocean View $699* Fr. | Balcony $849* Fr.
7-Day Alaska $549* Fr. pp — Ocean View $699* Fr. | Balcony $1149* Fr.
10-Day Caribbean $649* Fr. pp — Ocean View $849* Fr. | Balcony $999* Fr.

Holland America Line
Receive up to $575 Onboard Credit, plus Free Dining, Wine or Champagne on select sailings
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7-Day Alaska $549* Fr. pp — Ocean View $589* Fr. | Suite $1299* Fr.
10-Day Caribbean $789* Fr. pp — Ocean View $859* Fr. | Balcony $1179* Fr.
10-Day Panama $899* Fr. pp — Ocean View $1199* Fr. | Balcony $1499* Fr.

Princess Cruises
Receive up to $500 Onboard Credit plus complimentary wine with dinner on select sailings
7-Day Caribbean $549* Fr. pp — Ocean View $599* Fr. | Balcony $799* Fr.
7-Day Alaska $699* Fr. pp — Ocean View $749* Fr. | Balcony $1099* Fr.
7-Day U.S./Canada $799* Fr. pp — Ocean View $949* Fr. | Balcony $1299* Fr.
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Something borrowed

El Convento

Nestled in the heart of Old San Juan, this historic boutique hotel is ideal for an intimate, romantic wedding. Appropriately named, the 58-room property was converted from a 360-year-old Carmelite convent. If you've always dreamed of exchanging vows in a vine-covered courtyard beneath twinkling lights and the nighttime sky, El Convento is the venue for you. But intimate doesn't have to mean small — the hotel's largest event space can accommodate a party of 250. Plus, the property's certified wedding planner will help you get all the details just right.

100 Cll Del Cristo
San Juan, Puerto Rico, 00901
1-800-468-2779

EL CONVENTO

▶ Begin your marriage rooted in the history of this Old San Juan gem.

Something old

CONDADO VANDERBILT

▶ Exchange vows at the glamorous Condado Vanderbilt.

Condado Vanderbilt

Since 1919, this grand hotel has been evoking the style and class of a more glamorous era. Indulge your guests with first-class dining by Michelin-starred executive chef Juan Jose Cuevas. With a perfect location along the ocean, it's no wonder the hotel has attracted the likes of royalty, heads of state and Hollywood celebrities. It's been newly renovated just in time for you to star in your own big day.

1055 Ashford Ave.
San Juan, Puerto Rico, 00907
787-724-1919

NEW ONLINE LEARNING PLATFORM ENHANCES THE STUDENT EXPERIENCE

When considering whether an online college degree program is right for you, it helps to know about the learning platform you'll use when taking classes. Most students want a system that's easy to use, has a high level of interactivity, and lets them concentrate on learning—not worrying about the technical aspects of the online platform.

New England College of Business and Finance (NECB) has recently implemented a popular and easy-to-use online learning platform called Canvas.

"At NECB, we have transformed the traditional text-based online learning experience into an interactive, media-rich experience that is better suited for today's working adult," says Paula Bramante, SVP of Student Services.

"As an online student at NECB, you are part of a collaborative setting and receive the same academic credit, faculty support, and administrative assistance provided to students who participate in on-campus courses."

What do NECB students say about Canvas?

"I find this platform to be very user-friendly. I like the convenient access to everything, without having to login to multiple portals!"

"The ease of use and clarity of information is encouraging. I am so excited to be able to experience Canvas before I finish the program. I just got a brand new computer for Christmas, so I feel like I could start my doctorate right after these last two classes...or at least within the year (smile)!"

"Great improvement!"

Why do colleges select Canvas as their online learning platform?

Canvas delivers on its promise to put "education at your fingertips" for more than 300 colleges, universities and school districts. In addition to NECB, other higher education institutions using Canvas include Brown University, The Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania, Juilliard School of Music, University of Maryland and others.

One of the hallmarks of the Canvas system is that it's easy to use. It resembles websites you already know how to use. That means the time it takes to learn to use the system is minimal. That is an important consideration when you are a new online student.

Other important features include:

- Integrated multimedia allowing teachers to use audio and video to make class announcements, provide instructions about assignments and assess student work.
- A Help button that provides system tutorials and navigational videos.
- A central place for all lesson components, including readings, lectures, discussions, reviews and assignments.
- Video lectures and broadcasts which you can discuss with your fellow students and faculty. All lectures and videos are archived, allowing you to go back and review them at any time.
- Access to a robust online library with a wealth of databases and tools to conduct effective online research.
- Access to learning from any Internet-connected device: PC, Mac, iPhone, iPad, tablet, or Smartphone. (There's even an iPhone/iPad/Smartphone app!)

The advanced technology behind NECB's online learning platform is one way the college stays current with educational needs of today's business professionals. NECB also provides academic support throughout your degree program from advisors and faculty, online tutoring support on a 24/7 basis and a faculty comprised of industry experts and business leaders. All of these advantages add up to a learning environment that fosters the development of skills, knowledge, and abilities that can be directly applied to the high-growth, high-demand needs of today's workplace.

Visit necb.edu for more information.

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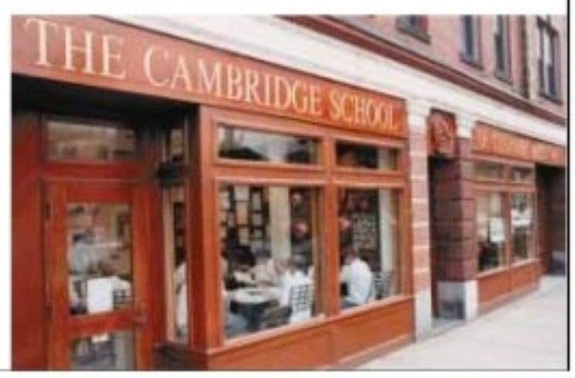


Passion Comes To Life at The Cambridge School of Culinary Arts

Where are you happier—behind a desk, or in the kitchen? Have you always felt that you were born to file and fax, or might your true calling involve something a bit more expressive? If food is your passion, pursue your new career at The Cambridge School of Culinary Arts.

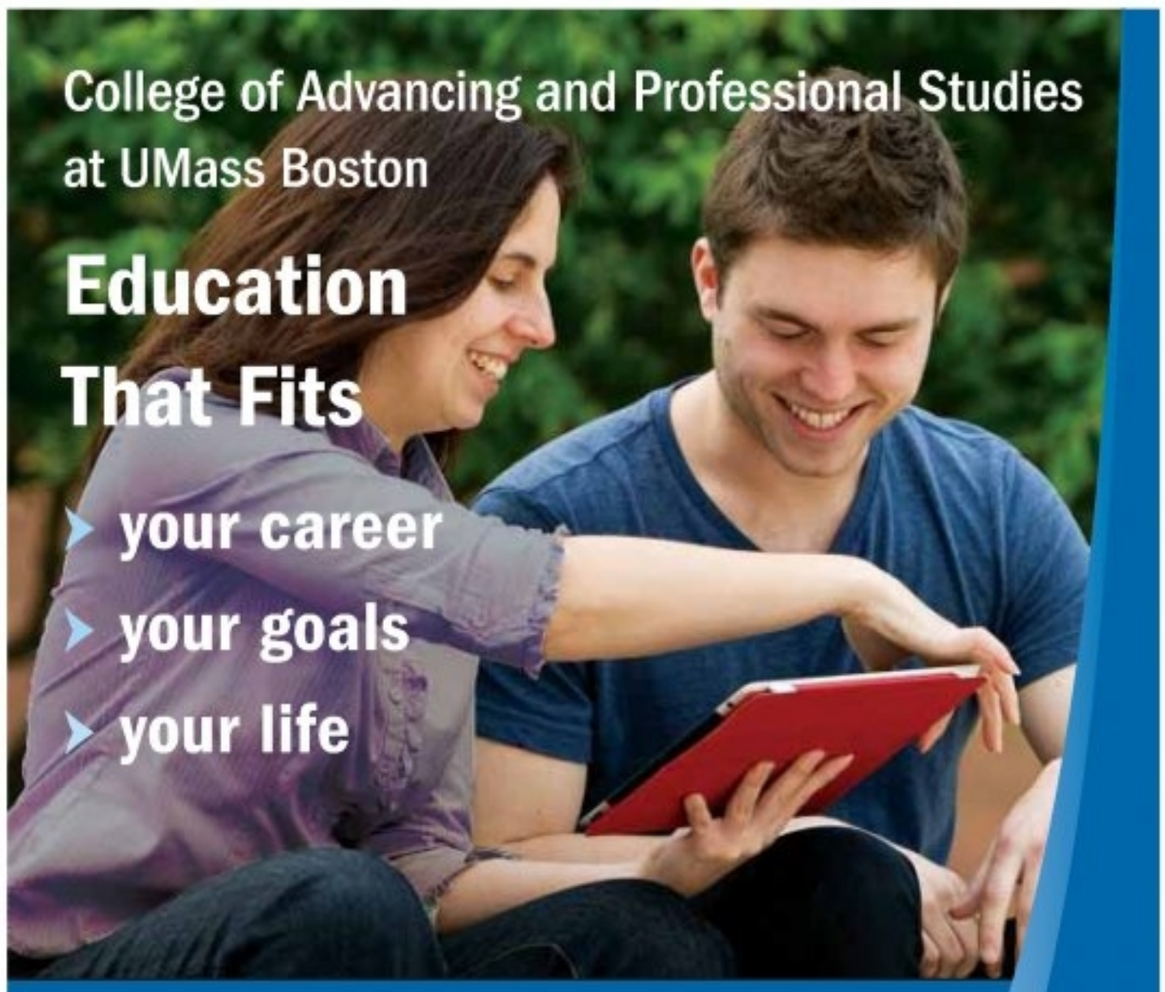
Established by Chef Roberta Dowling in 1974, The Cambridge School of Culinary Arts seeks to stimulate the senses as it helps students discover beauty and complexity within the world of food. Students are encouraged to explore all aspects of fine food and its preparation as they learn to produce dishes that demonstrate technical and scientific mastery. The education received at The CSCA provides each student with a lasting legacy of culinary knowledge that reflects common sense, diversity of culinary expression, and above all—the notion that food is a celebration of life.

Four unique program offerings make up the curriculum at The CSCA: the 37-week Professional Chef's and Professional Pastry programs, as well as the 16-week Culinary Certificate and Certificate Pastry programs. All programs place strong emphasis on both modern and classical culinary techniques and are taught by a talented staff of chef instructors from around the world. Pastry classes are highlighted by the addition of instructor and Program Director Delphin Gomes, New England's only French Master Pastry Chef. A flexible day and evening schedule allows students to work full- or part-time while attending, and class size is limited to allow for intimate, hands-on instruction. Applications for May enrollment are now being accepted for all programs.

In addition to culinary training programs, The CSCA offers an extensive recreational program for food enthusiasts. These one-time classes cover a wide range of subject matter and are designed to introduce the amateur chef to the world of specialty cooking. Whether you want to impress your friends and family with a gourmet meal, perfect your pie crust, or discover the secrets of a well-seasoned sauce—there are classes to meet every need. Give the Gift of Cooking to your sweetheart for this Valentine's Day—a CSCA Gift Certificate!

The CSCA is currently accepting applications for all May 2013 programs, with classes starting on April 30, 2013.

For more detailed information about these and many other program offerings, or to sign up for an Information Session on the evening of Thursday, February 14th at 6:00pm, please visit **www.cambridgeculinary.com** or call **617.354.2020.**



NON-CREDIT CAREER DEVELOPMENT COURSES
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Visit **caps.umb.edu/metro**

UMASS BOSTON

Explore New Opportunities this Spring

The College of Advancing and Professional Studies (CAPS) at UMass Boston, has some exciting course offerings this spring. Now's your chance to enhance your skills or explore a new career path through several offerings.

UMASS BOSTON

Grant Writing

If you work in a non-profit or think that may be your career path, sign up for "Successful Grant Writing, from A to Z," a six week course, offered every Wednesday evening from April 3-May 8th on the Boston harbor campus. Taught by David Gordon, Senior Associate Director of foundation relations at MIT, classes meet face-to-face for a real-world high-value learning experience. Upon successful completion of this course, you will receive 1.5 Continuing Education Units (CEUs).

Performance Management

You can explore the field of Performance Management in Government and Non-Profits Starting April 21st to June 2nd.

This course explores what performance management means, how government agencies can adopt this approach, and provides a practical understanding of how to apply performance management tools successfully at all levels of government across policy areas.
Upon successful completion of the course you will receive 2 CEUs.

Senior Transportation Management

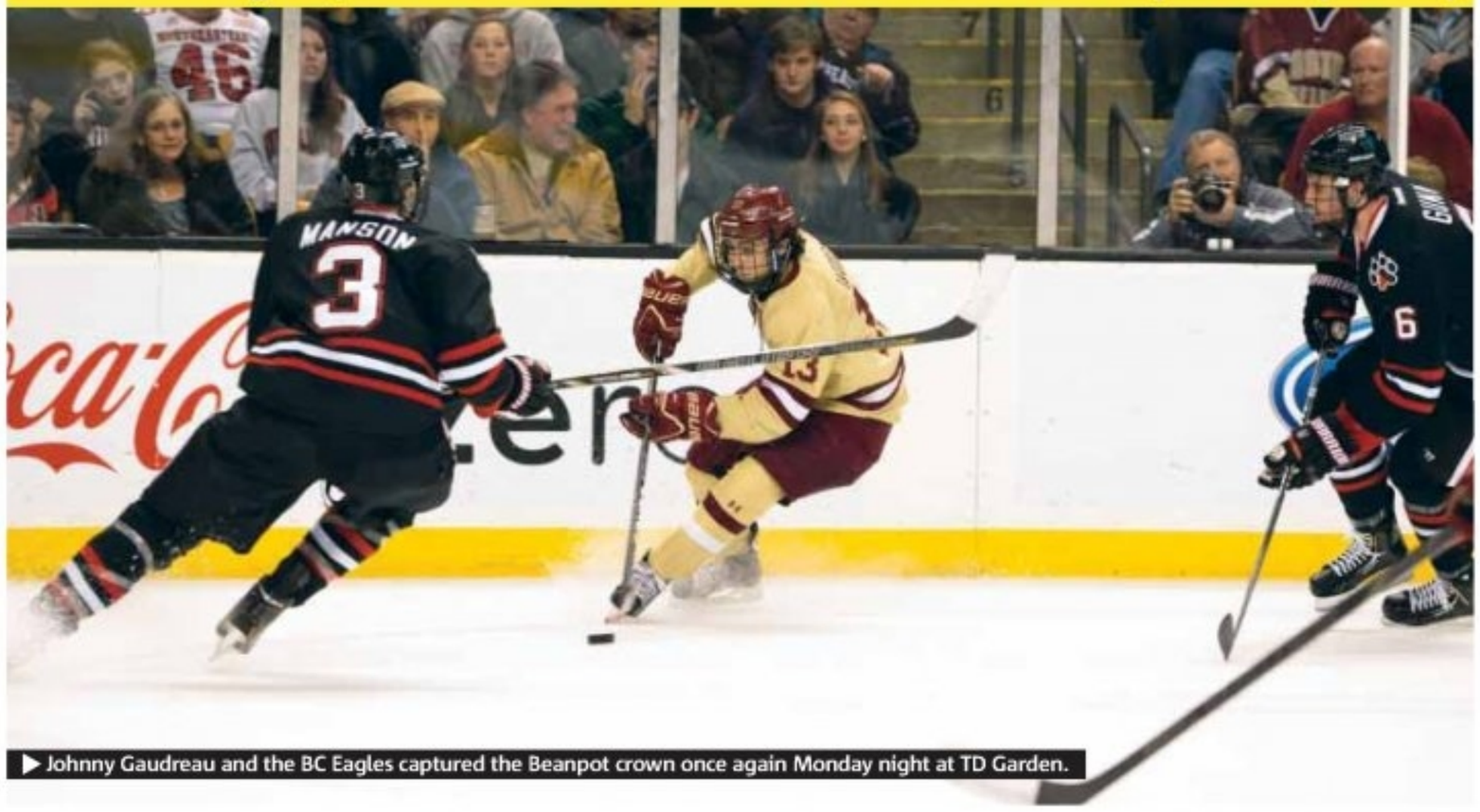
As our population ages, related issues are increasingly becoming more important. This online certificate program confronts the issues of what happens when life expectancy exceeds driving expectancy.

Unfortunately, the same physical and cognitive limitations that make it difficult or impossible for older adults to drive, can also impede their access to transportation services. Organizing and managing transportation services that meet the needs of senior passengers is a major challenge for communities across America.

This online certificate program is appropriate for professionals in the field of aging services and transportation services. When you successfully complete the certificate, you will receive 5 CEUs. Find a course, a program or a degree that fits your life and goals. www.caps.umb.edu/metro

Boston College 6 | Northeastern 3 **2013 Beanpot Championship**

ALEC BELLANTE/METRO



▶ Johnny Gaudreau and the BC Eagles captured the Beanpot crown once again Monday night at TD Garden.

BC flying high again

◗ Eagles use three second-period goals to dump Northeastern ◗ Boston College wins fourth straight Beanpot ◗ Seniors never lost a tourney game

The Boston College Eagles captured their fourth straight Beanpot title Monday night, defeating upset-minded Northeastern, 6-3, at TD Garden.

The first period was certainly the outlier in the tournament's 61st championship as the second and third periods saw the Eagles and Huskies go on scoring sprees.

BC's Johnny Gaudreau, who tallied two goals on the night, redirected a perfect pass from Steven Whitney to give the Eagles all the advantage they would need. Whitney also beat the second period buzzer off a rebound as the Eagles opened up a 4-1 lead heading into the second break.

It looked as though the Eagles would run away with the crown but NU's Kevin Roy continued his sterling play in the tournament with a goal at the 4:56 mark of the second period. BC goaltender Parker Milner had a beauty of a save when Roy had a breakaway moments after his goal. Roy also rifled a shot past Milner to pull the Huskies to within two goals just seconds into the third period. The Huskies would get to Milner again in the third when a Vinny Saponari shot deflected off Braden Pimm's leg.

But BC ultimately proved to be too tough. Bill Arnold got Boston College on the board, off a Huskies turnover, at the 9:07 mark of the second period. The goal sparked the Eagles offense as one minute and 15 seconds later Gaudreau popped in another BC goal with several defenders around the net. Patrick Brown also found the net for BC.

The Eagles had been getting opportunities early despite the two teams being tied, 0-0, after one period. Northeastern netminder Chris Rawlings saw plenty of work in the first frame but Boston College could not punch one home. BC had 10 shots on goal compared to the Huskies' five early on.

Northeastern has not won a Beanpot title since 1988.

Matt Burke
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BU blues

Boston University had a tough go of it for the second straight year in the Beanpot as it lost to Harvard, 7-4, in the consolation game.

- **Harvard** was led by Luke Greiner's hat trick as it ended a nine-game winless streak. Marshall Everson posted a pair of goals for the Crimson as well.
- **Boston University** actually had a two goal lead in Monday's game but Harvard's freshman goaltender Peter Traber settled down and finished with 43 saves.
- **The Terriers** have 29 Beanpot crowns but haven't captured the title since the 2009 tournament.

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Henry grilled by media

Red Sox owner John Henry discussed several topics with the media Monday in Fort Myers, Fla., including the rumors that he is thinking about selling the team.

"The last 12 years have been the best years of my life," Henry said. "Tom and Larry and I have had a tremendous working relationship. We have always been on the same page. … You just don't get the opportunity to own something like the Boston Red Sox. As long as we can do it, the three of us are committed to being here. These thoughts that we are somewhat selling, those are just erroneous."

He also touched on the release of former manager Terry Francona's book, which was critical of ownership at times.

"There's no doubt in my mind that we had a core philosophy for a lot of years and we moved away from that philosophy and it's hurt us," Henry said. "It's definitely hurt us. Last year, I think was the beginning of trying to put us back on that track."

Henry did get a tad flustered when he was questioned on whether or not he "loved baseball."

"Again, I don't want to be defensive," Henry said. "Especially about stuff that really is ridiculous. That's ridiculous."

Matt Burke
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GETTY IMAGES

▶ John Henry has helped bring two World Championships to Boston.

Pap smear

Former Red Sox pitcher Jonathan Papelbon told ESPN that he was regularly injected with Toradol during his time in Boston.

Toradol is legal but the anti-inflammatory drug is quite controversial as a pain reliever. Papelbon did not single out the Red Sox, saying that athletes in "every sport" use the drug.

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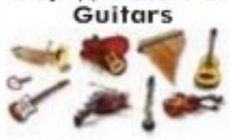
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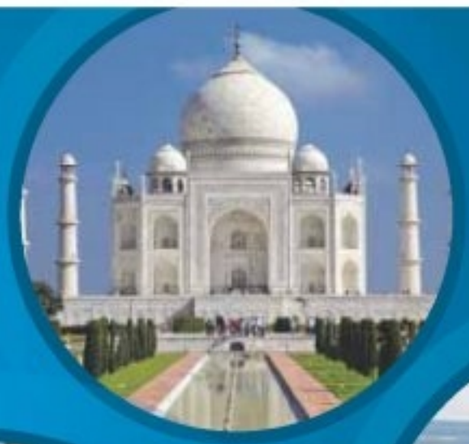

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